

## Cooper and Commerce Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site

**Information from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to the community near the Cooper and Commerce WQARF site.**

### **GROUNDWATER\* INVESTIGATION AT THE COOPER AND COMMERCE SITE**

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has conducted a preliminary investigation at the Cooper and Commerce site located in Gilbert, and has placed the site on the *Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Registry* in June 2004. The site is bounded to the north by Guadalupe Road, to the south by the Western Canal, to the west by Cooper Road and to the east by the property boundary of 620 West Commerce. (see map inside).

Groundwater at the site is contaminated with *volatile organic compounds (VOCs)*, specifically two solvents called *tetrachloroethene (PCE)* and *trichlorethene (TCE)*. These man-made solvents are commonly used in dry cleaning and metal degreasing operations. PCE and TCE are present in the groundwater at levels that exceed the Arizona Aquifer Water Quality Standards (AWQS) and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency *Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)* of five micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/l}$ ).

In October 2001, a groundwater sample collected from a Town of Gilbert monitoring well located downgradient of the site detected PCE and TCE above the AWQS. This monitor well is a *point of compliance* for the Town of Gilbert wastewater treatment plant recharge ponds. Because recharge from these ponds may affect the movement of *contaminants* in the groundwater, ADEQ and the Town of Gilbert worked closely to reduce the use of the recharge ponds near the site.

A Town of Gilbert public supply well, #15, is located within one half mile downgradient of the site. In July 2003, ADEQ completed a deep monitor well between the site and the Town of Gilbert public supply well. No PCE or TCE have been detected in the deep monitor well or the Town of Gilbert public supply well.

Groundwater in this area is generally found at 125

feet below the surface and flows to the northwest. Investigation and future cleanup work at this site will be funded and managed by the Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) program, also known as the State Superfund Program.

ADEQ is sending this notice to all addresses within and near the Cooper and Commerce WQARF site to provide information about the ongoing investigation. If you would like to become involved in the process or would like additional information, please fill out the form at the end of this notice.

### **WHAT ARE THE PLANS FOR THE SITE?**

ADEQs immediate plans are to conduct an early response action (ERA) evaluation at the site. During this ERA evaluation, ADEQ plans to investigate the depth of groundwater *contamination* and determine the concentration of PCE in the soil and soil vapor near the source area. ADEQ also plans to define the extent of surface soil contamination indicated by previous samples collected from the properties located at 619-620 West Commerce. Based on the information collected, ADEQ may conduct an ERA to reduce the concentrations of PCE in the source area. The site will then proceed through a remedial investigation and feasibility study leading to a *remedial action plan* and a final remedy.

### **WHAT ARE THE CONTAMINANTS AT THE COOPER AND COMMERCE SITE?**

PCE and TCE are currently known to be present in the groundwater above the regulatory level of 5  $\mu\text{g/l}$ .

Arsenic is present in surface soils at 619-620 West Commerce Avenue above the *Arizona soil remediation standard of 10 milligrams per kilogram*.

### **WHAT ARE THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS CONTAMINATION?**

**It is important to understand that if your water is provided by the Town of Gilbert, they**

**are providing you with safe and clean drinking water and there is no threat of exposure to this contamination.** If you have a private well and your well is located within one-quarter mile of the site boundary, please call **Scott Goodwin, ADEQ Project Manager, at (602) 771-4452.**

The majority of risk associated with groundwater contaminated with PCE or TCE comes from long-term direct exposure to the water by ingestion. People who drink water containing PCE or TCE in excess of the regulatory levels over many years could experience problems with their liver and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

The majority of risk associated with soils contaminated with arsenic comes from breathing dust or ingestion. Breathing high levels of arsenic can give a person a sore throat or irritated lungs. Ingesting high levels of arsenic can be fatal. Several studies have shown that arsenic can increase the risk of cancer.

Ingesting or breathing lower levels of arsenic can cause nausea and vomiting, decreased production of red and white blood cells, abnormal heart rhythm, damage to blood vessels and a sensation of “pins and needles” in hands and feet. Ingesting or breathing low levels of arsenic for a long period of time can cause a darkening of the skin and the appearance of small “corns” or “warts” on the palms, soles and torso. Skin contact with arsenic may cause a redness and swelling.

## **HOW CAN THE PUBLIC BE INVOLVED?**

A Community Advisory Board (CAB) will be established to advise ADEQ and the public of issues and concerns related to the clean up at the Cooper and Commerce site. The purpose of the CAB is to:

- provide comments to ADEQ on various remediation techniques, and other issues related to the site;
- participate in outreach to the community;
- provide assistance in planning and facilitating public meetings and open houses;
- assist in distributing information from ADEQ to the community; and
- ensure that the opinions and concerns of the residents are accurately understood by ADEQ

If you would like to serve on the CAB or would like to be notified of the CAB meetings, please contact Wendy Van Deusen, Community Involvement Coordinator (602) 771-4410 or toll-free in Arizona at (800) 234-5677.

You may also fill out and return the CAB application located in this notice. Applications for CAB membership will be considered at a regularly scheduled CAB meeting in compliance with Arizona’s Open Meeting Law.

Information about the Cooper and Commerce site WQARF is available at ADEQ’s main office located at 1110 West Washington in Phoenix. Within 24 hours notice, an appointment to review relating documentation is available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at ADEQ Records Management Center, 1110 West Washington, Phoenix, Arizona. Please contact (602) 771-4380 to schedule an appointment to review these documents.

## **WHAT IS THE WATER QUALITY ASSURANCE REVOLVING FUND (WQARF) AND THE REGISTRY?**

The WQARF Program was established by Arizona law to:

- 1) conduct statewide surface and groundwater monitoring;
- 2) study health effects;
- 3) perform emergency remedial actions; and
- 4) conduct long-term remedial action programs.

The WQARF Program is funded with state monies, civil and criminal penalties, and funds recovered from parties responsible for contamination.

ADEQ has established a Registry of sites in Arizona where groundwater and/or soil contamination is known to be present. Sites appearing on this Registry qualify for funds available from the States’ WQARF for investigation and/or cleanup of contamination. The Cooper and Commerce site is included on this Registry.

For further information on this site or other WQARF sites, please visit the ADEQ Web site at <http://www.azdeq.gov>. Click on Waste Programs, click on Superfund Programs and follow the prompts for the information you need. A hard copy of the information on the web site is available in the Superfund Programs Section Information Booklet. This document may be purchased by contacting the information desk at (602) 771-2202. In Arizona, outside the Phoenix area, call 1(800) 234-5677.

## **ADEQ CONTACTS:**

**Scott Goodwin**  
ADEQ Project Manager  
(602) 771-4452 or  
1(800) 234-5677  
e-mail: [sdg@azdeq.gov](mailto:sdg@azdeq.gov)

**Wendy Van Deusen**  
ADEQ Community  
Involvement Coordinator,  
(602) 771-4410 or  
1(800) 234-5677  
e-mail: [wvl@azdeq.gov](mailto:wvl@azdeq.gov)

Hearing impaired persons may call our TDD line at (602) 771-4829.

If you or anyone you know is interested in obtaining more information about the Cooper and Commerce site, and would like to continue to receive site information mailings, please complete and return the attached mailing form. The local ADEQ office is located at: 1110 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Superfund Programs Section fax number is (602) 771-4272.

## GLOSSARY

**contaminant** - Any hazardous substance released into the environment.

**groundwater** - Water found beneath the earth's surface that fills pores between materials such as sand, clay or gravel. In aquifers, groundwater occurs in sufficient quantities that it can be used for drinking water, irrigation and other purposes.

**Maximum Contaminant Level** - A federally-designated, enforceable standard set to ensure that water is safe for drinking.

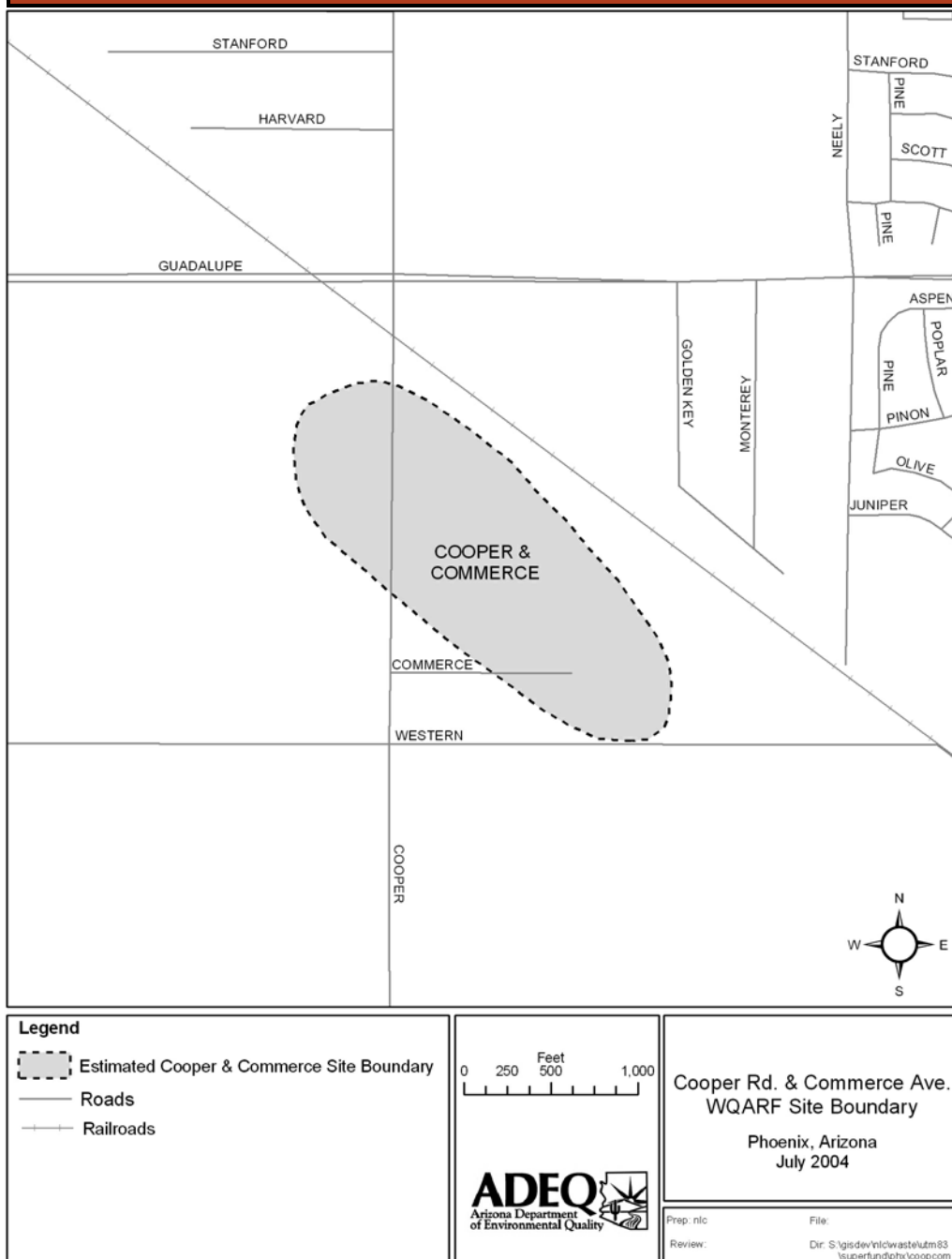
**point of compliance** - The point at which compliance with aquifer water quality standards is determined.

**remedial action** - Actions taken to deal with the release of a hazardous substance that could affect people or the environment. The term "cleanup" is sometimes used interchangeably with the terms remedial action, removal action, response action, remedy.

**soil remediation standards** - Arizona Department of Environmental Quality risk based standards applicable to soil remediation activities.

**tetrachloroethene (PCE)** - A clear, colorless, nonflammable solvent that readily evaporates at

# Cooper and Commerce WQARF Site



room temperature. PCE is widely used for dry cleaning of fabrics and degreasing/drying of metals.

**trichloroethene (TCE)** - TCE is a nonflammable, colorless solvent that readily evaporates at room temperature. TCE is used mainly for degreasing/drying of metals and cleaning of fabrics.

**volatile organic compounds (VOCs)** - A large group of carbon-containing chemicals that readily evaporate at room temperature. Examples of VOCs are isopropyl alcohol (rubbing alcohol), acetone (found in some

nail polish removers), and the solvents PCE and trichloroethylene (TCE) (used in dry cleaning and metal degreasing).

**Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF)** - A program administered by ADEQ to

- (1) conduct statewide surface and groundwater monitoring;
- (2) study health effects;
- (3) perform emergency remedial actions; and
- (4) conduct long-term remedial action programs. Also known as "State Superfund."



## Community Advisory Board (CAB) Application Cooper and Commerce Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Area

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone numbers: (home:) \_\_\_\_\_ (work:) \_\_\_\_\_  
(mobile:) \_\_\_\_\_ (other:) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you lived in / near the Cooper and Commerce site? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to make a commitment to serve on the CAB for at least 1 year? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you able to attend at least four meetings a year? \_\_\_\_\_

What day(s) / time(s) would be best for you to attend meetings? \_\_\_\_\_

**Please explain why you would like to serve on the Community Advisory Board  
(attach a separate sheet if needed):**

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Please complete and return this application.

Please fold and tape this form before mailing (no staples). Send to:

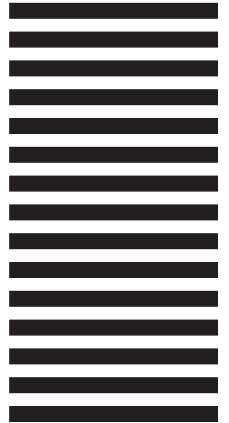
**Wendy Van Deusen, Community Involvement Coordinator**  
**Arizona Department of Environmental Quality**  
**1110 W. Washington Street, 4415B-1**  
**Phoenix, AZ 85007-9973**

**Questions?** Contact Wendy Van Deusen at 1(800) 234-5677, ext. 771-4410.

You will be notified by mail regarding the status of your application. Thank you for your interest!



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Community Involvement Coordinator  
1110 W. Washington Street, 4415B-1  
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# CONCERNING Cooper and Commerce Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOU FROM